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X-CUTIONER'S SONG
PART 2
X-FACTOR
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

CHAPTER 2 OF THE X-TEAMS GREATEST CRISIS!

AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PROFESSOR XAVIER HAS LEFT HIS LIFE IN GREAT JEOPARDY. MEANWHILE, SCOTT SUMMERS AND JEAN GREY HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF APOCALYPSE!

X-CUTIONER'S SONG

IT'S SUICIDE. EVEN WORSE... IT'S POOR STRATEGY.

I DON'T SEE WHERE WE HAVE A CHOICE, SHATTERSTAR.

WE ALL SAW CABLE IN NEW YORK, SHOOTING DOWN XAVIER. WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'S STILL IN NEW YORK BUT WHAT THERE MOST DEFINITELY WILL BE IS A CITY CRAWLING WITH X-MEN LOOKING FOR ANYONE CONNECTED WITH CABLE...

...PARTICULARLY X-FORCE!

MY MAJOR CONCERN IS THE IPAC.

IT'S BEING HELD TOGETHER WITH SPIT AND BAILING WIRE. NOT A RELIABLE GETAWAY FROM A CITY THAT'S TURNING INTO A MUTANT SHOOTING GALLERY.

SAM? YOU'RE THE LEADER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

AH SAY WE GO. WE OWE IT TO CABLE TO REIN HIM IN IF HE'S NUTS. AND IF HE'S HURT THE PROF, WE OWE IT TO XAVIER.

BUT YOU'RE STAYIN' HERE, BERTO.

NO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME BEHI--

--UHHHH--

EASY, ROBERTO. I GOT YOU.

NO OFFENSE, 'BERTO, BUT YOU'RE HURT SO BAD Y'COULD BARELY GET OUTTA BED. MUCH LESS BE OF USE IN A FIGHT.

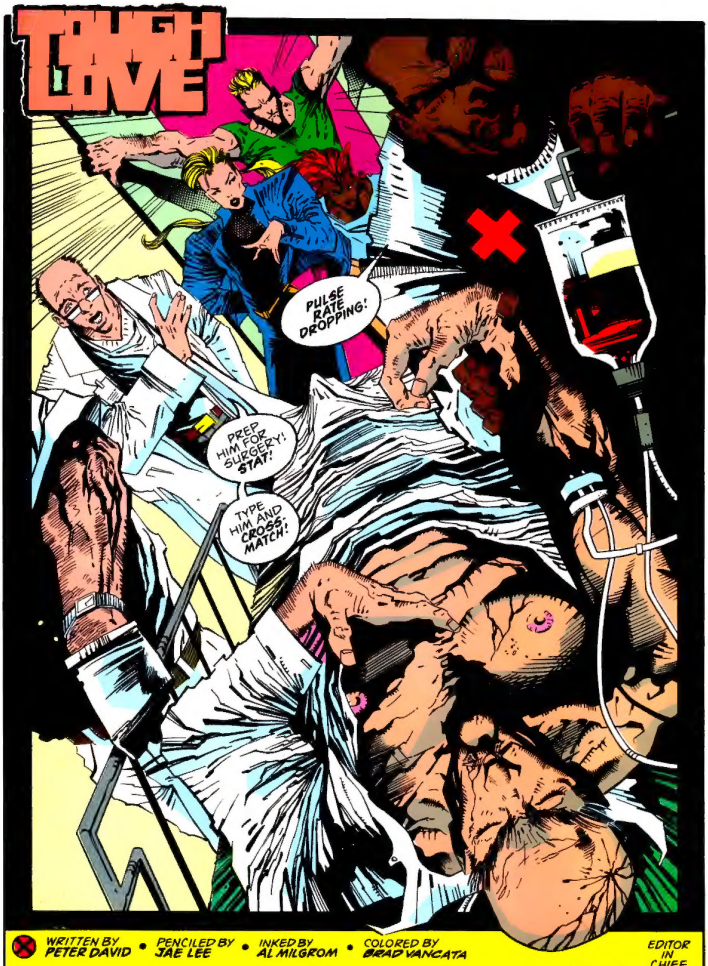
TERRY, YA GOT TWENTY MINUTES TO GET ONE OF THE MONITORS OUT OF THE IPAC.

BOOMER, RIC AND FERAL WILL COME WITH ME.

THE REST OF Y'ALL, WATCH THE NEWS REPORTS ON THE MONITOR.

IF WE'RE NAILED, IT'LL BE UP TO Y'ALL TO SAVE OUR BUTTS.

* NOTE TO THE WISE: IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY READ UNCANNY X-MEN # 394 NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SO. -- KELLY



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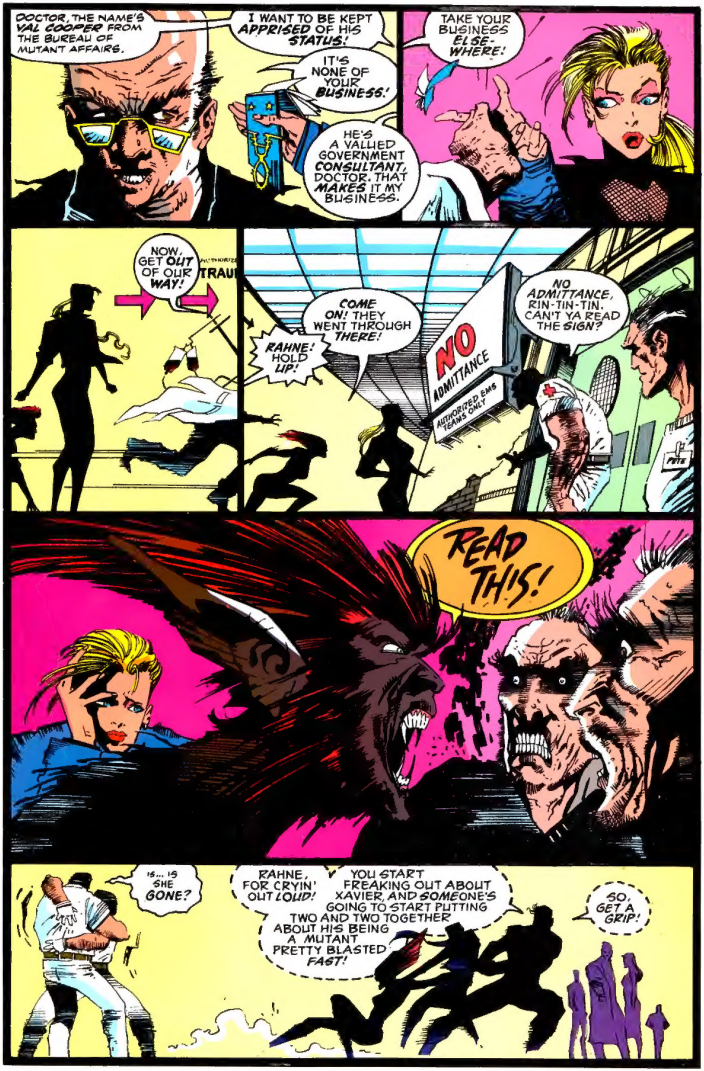
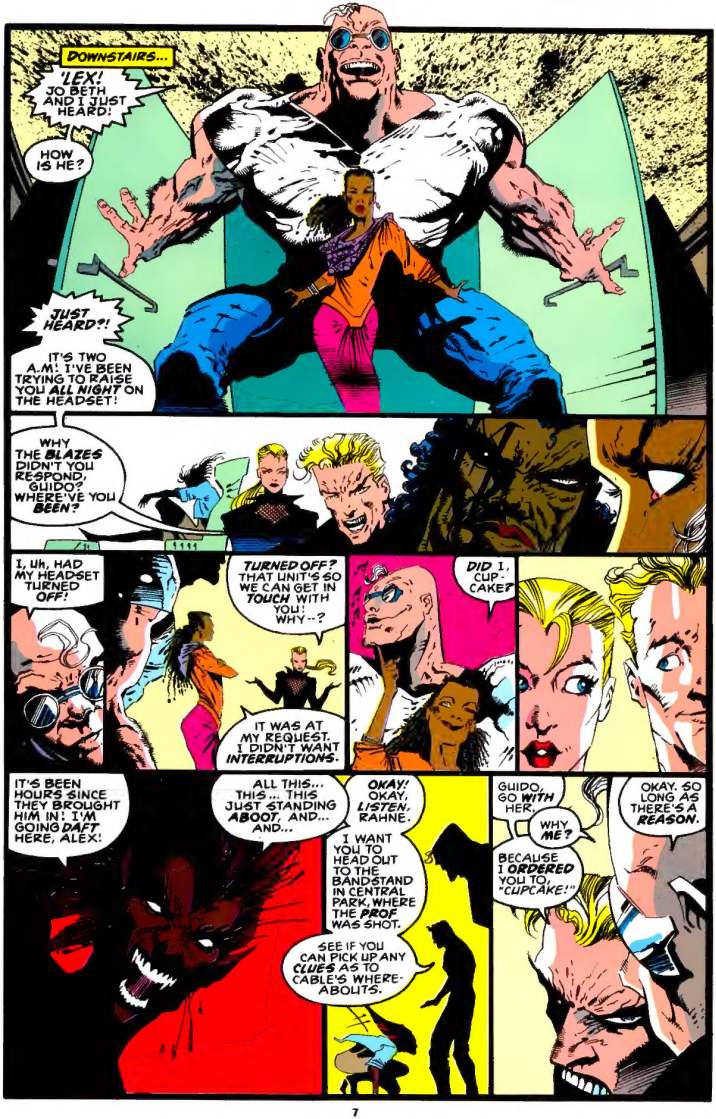
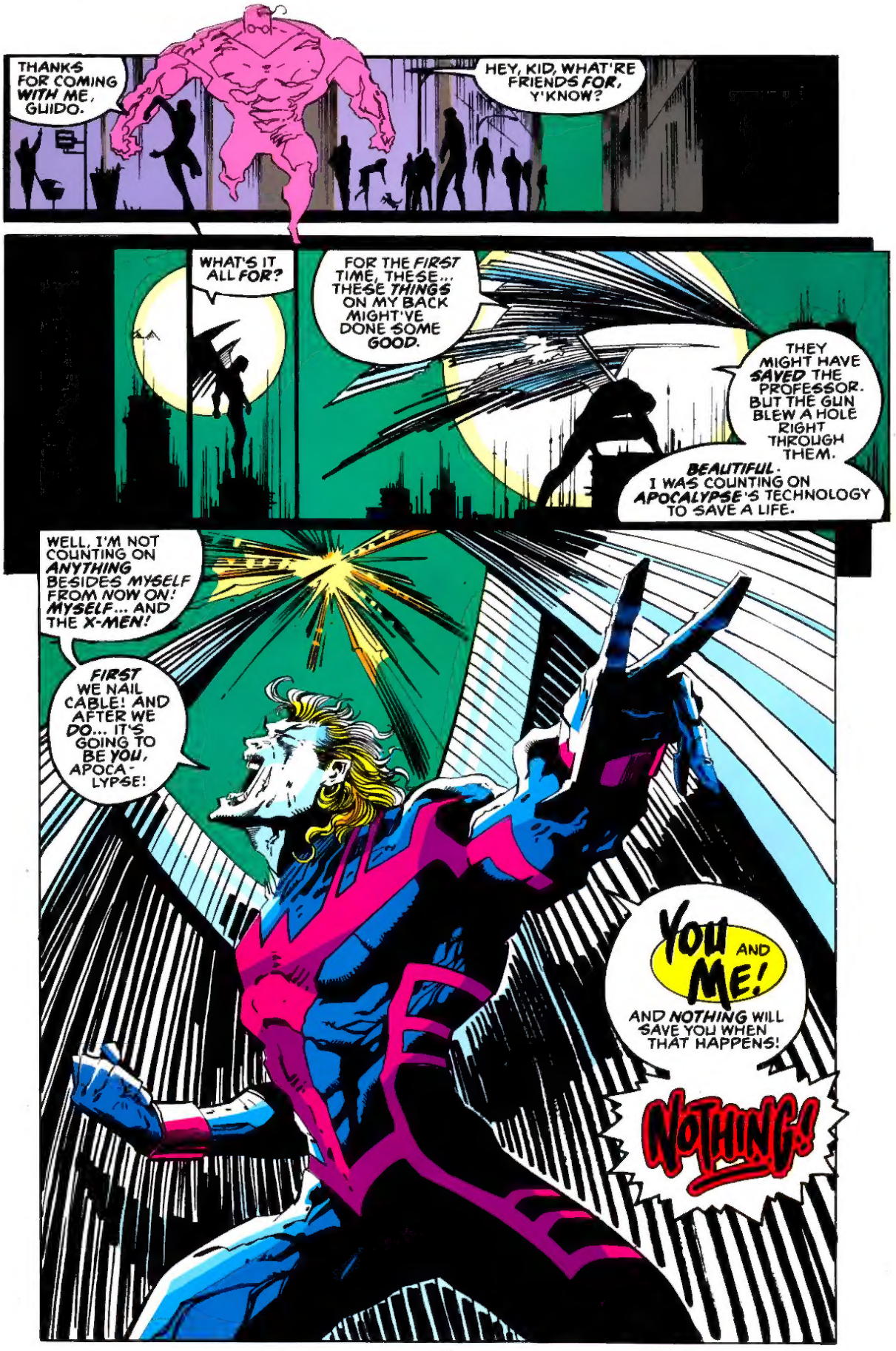
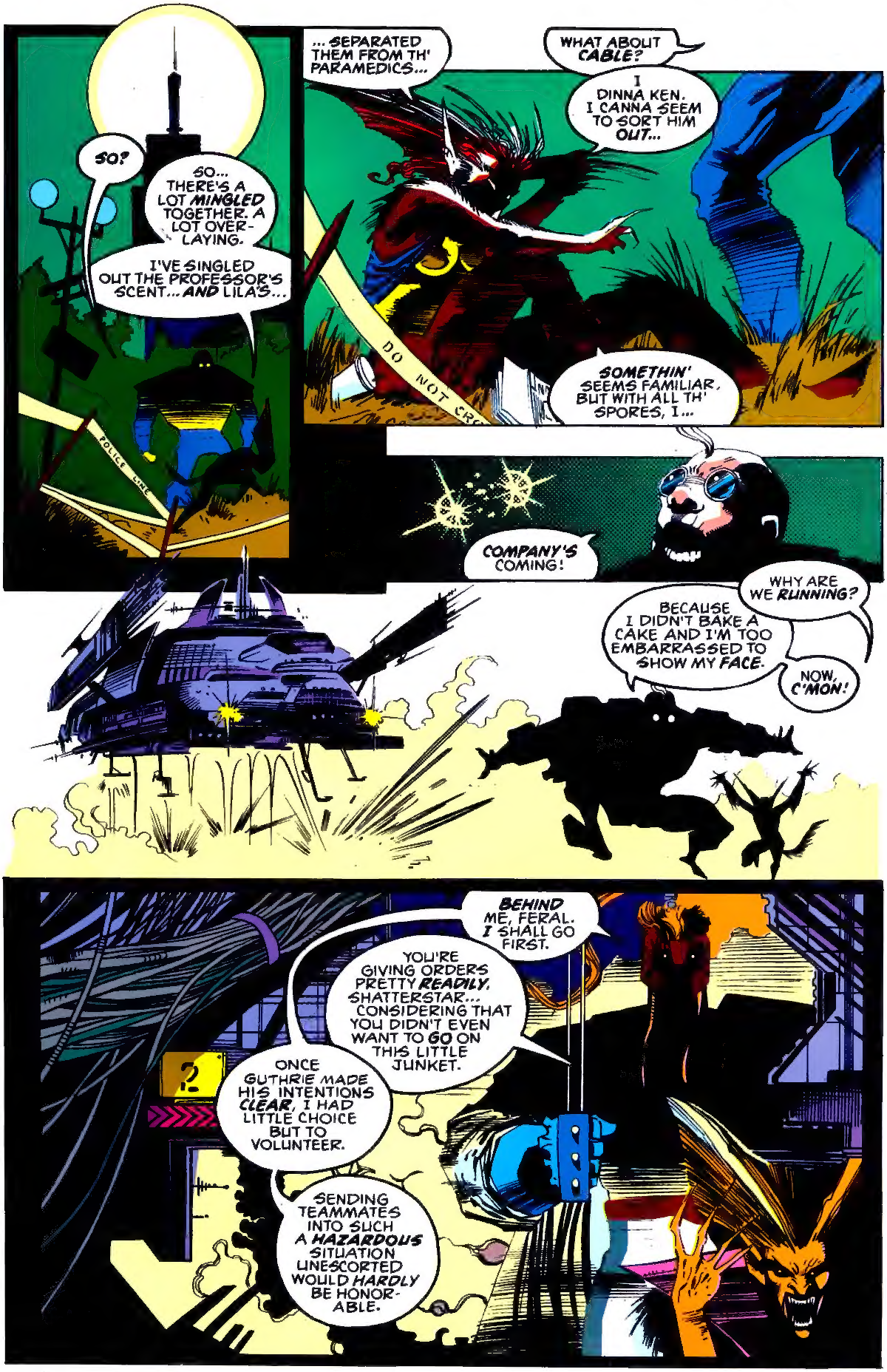

DOCTOR, THE NAME'S VAL COOPER FROM THE BUREAU OF MUTANT AFFAIRS.
I WANT TO BE KEPT APPRISED OF HIS STATUS!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
HE'S A VALUED GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT, DOCTOR. THAT MAKES IT MY BUSINESS.
TAKE YOUR BUSINESS ELSE-WHERE!
NOW, GET OUT OF OUR WAY!
TRAU
COME ON! THEY WENT THROUGH THERE!
RAHNE! HOLD UP!
NO ADMITTANCE
AUTHORIZED EMS TERMS ONLY
NO ADMITTANCE, CIN-TIN-TIN. CAN'T YA READ THE SIGN?
READ THIS!
IS... IS SHE GONE?
RAHNE, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
YOU START FREAKING OUT ABOUT XAVIER, AND SOMEONE'S GOING TO START PUTTING TWO AND TWO TOGETHER ABOUT HIS BEING A MUTANT PRETTY BLASTED FAST!
SO, GET A GRIP!

OROROO.
ALEX.
WISH IT COULD HAVE BEEN UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES. SEEING YOU, I MEAN.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT.
Ah.
Um... WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
THIS IS BISHOP. BISHOP, THIS IS ALEX, VALERIE, AND RAHNE.
WHAT IS THE PROFESSOR'S CONDITION?
HE'S BEEN BROUGHT INTO SURGERY.
WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOUR, UH... ASSOCIATES?
I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AS MANY AS I COULD CONTACT QUICKLY. THE NEWS WILL SPREAD RATHER RAPIDLY, I WOULD THINK. BAD NEWS OFTEN DOES.
INDEED.
AND YOUR "ASSOCIATES?"
MOST OF THEM ARE UPSTAIRS WITH A YOUNG... MUTANT... WHO WAS BEATEN UP YES-TERDAY.
Oh, YES. I SAW THE VIDEOTAPE ON THE NEWS. IT WAS HORRIBLE.
YEAH. BUT JAMIE ROUNDED UP THE PERPS AND THEY'RE BEING CHARGED WITH ASSAULT AND BATTERY. MAYBE WE'LL FINALLY SEE SOME JUSTICE.
SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE PROFESSOR?
WE WAIT.

I DON'T GET THIS, LORNA. WHY IS ALEX HAVING US HANG AROUND UP HERE?
BECAUSE, JAMIE, HE DOESN'T WANT THE DOWNSTAIRS WAITING ROOM CRAMMED WITH MUTANTS.
BESIDES, HE WANTS US KEEPING AN EYE ON THE X-PATRIOTS.
THIS IS SOME WONDERFUL NATION YOU HAVE HERE...
AS SOON AS THERE'S WORD ON XAVIER, HE'LL LET US KNOW.
...WE FLED GENOSHA TO ESCAPE ANTI-MUTANT OPPRESSION.
THIS IS THE WRONG COUNTRY TO COME TO. NOT ONLY IS YOUNG TAYLOR THE VICTIM OF MINDLESS ANTI-MUTANT HYSTERIA...
... BUT ALL XAVIER HAD TO DO WAS SHOW UP AT A CONCERT FOR "BROTHERHOOD" AND HE WAS SHOT.
I WAS THERE WHEN XAVIER AND MY FATHER, MAGNETO, FIRST BUTTED HEADS OVER HUMANITY. HOW NAUSEATING TO THINK MAGNETO'S VIEW SEEMS BORNE OUT.
NOW COME ON, PIETRO, YOU'RE NOT SAYING MAGNETO IS RIGHT?
THE VERY THOUGHT OF MAGNETO REPELS ME, LORNA, BUT...
NO "BUT." IT'S NOT HUMANS VERSUS MUTANTS
AFTER ALL, THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF "NORMS" WHO HAVE MET WITH VIOLENCE OR DEATH, SIMPLY BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY WERE OR WHAT THEY BELIEVED.
I SEE, MS. DANE.
HUMAN BRUTALITY TOWARDS MUTANTS IS ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT'S EQUITABLE.
YOU'RE TWISTING IT, PRODIGAL. IT'S NOT "ACCEPTABLE."
NO, IT'S NOT. AND HOW MUCH MORE DO WE TAKE UNTIL WE START LETTING PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE'LL TAKE NO MORE?!


DOWNSTAIRS...
'LEX! JO BETH AND I JUST HEARD!
HOW IS HE?
JUST HEARD?!
IT'S TWO A.M.! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RAISE YOU ALL NIGHT ON THE HEADSET!
WHY THE BLAZES DIDN'T YOU RESPOND, GUIDO? WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
I, UH, HAD MY HEADSET TURNED OFF!
TURNED OFF? THAT UNIT'S SO WE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU! WHY--?
IT WAS AT MY REQUEST. I DIDN'T WANT INTERRUPTIONS.
DID I, CUP-CAKE?
IT'S BEEN HOURS SINCE THEY BROUGHT HIM IN! I'M GOING DAFT HERE, ALEX!
ALL THIS... THIS... THIS JUST STANDING ABOOT, AND... AND...
OKAY! OKAY, LISTEN, RAHNE.
I WANT YOU TO HEAD OUT TO THE BANDSTAND IN CENTRAL PARK, WHERE THE PROF WAS SHOT.
SEE IF YOU CAN PICK UP ANY CLUES AS TO CABLE'S WHEREABOUTS.
GUIDO, GO WITH HER.
WHY ME?
BECAUSE I ORDERED YOU TO, "CUPCAKE!"
OKAY. SO LONG AS THERE'S A REASON.


THANKS FOR COMING WITH ME, GUIDO.
HEY, KID, WHAT'RE FRIENDS FOR, Y'KNOW?
WHAT'S IT ALL FOR?
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THESE... THESE THINGS ON MY BACK MIGHT'VE DONE SOME GOOD.
THEY MIGHT HAVE SAVED THE PROFESSOR. BUT THE GUN BLEW A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH THEM.
BEAUTIFUL. I WAS COUNTING ON APOCALYPSE'S TECHNOLOGY TO SAVE A LIFE.
WELL, I'M NOT COUNTING ON ANYTHING BESIDES MYSELF FROM NOW ON! MYSELF... AND THE X-MEN!
FIRST WE NAIL CABLE! AND AFTER WE DO... IT'S GOING TO BE YOU, APOCALYPSE!
YOU AND ME!
AND NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU WHEN THAT HAPPENS!
NOTHING!


SO?
SO... THERE'S A LOT MINGLED TOGETHER. A LOT OVER-LAYING.
I'VE SINGLED OUT THE PROFESSOR'S SCENT... AND LILA'S...
POLICE LINE
... SEPARATED THEM FROM TH' PARAMEDICS...
WHAT ABOUT CABLE?
I DINNA KEN. I CANNA SEEM TO SORT HIM OUT...
DO NOT CRO
SOMETHIN' SEEMS FAMILIAR, BUT WITH ALL TH' SPORES, I...
COMPANY'S COMING!
WHY ARE WE RUNNING?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T BAKE A CAKE AND I'M TOO EMBARRASSED TO SHOW MY FACE.
NOW, C'MON!
BEHIND ME, FERAL. I SHALL GO FIRST.
YOU'RE GIVING ORDERS PRETTY READILY, SHATTERSTAR... CONSIDERING THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO GO ON THIS LITTLE JUNKET.
ONCE GUTHRIE MADE HIS INTENTIONS CLEAR, I HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO VOLUNTEER.
SENDING TEAMMATES INTO SUCH A HAZARDOUS SITUATION UNESCORTED WOULD HARDLY BE HONOR-ABLE.

AW, MAN, IT'S THOSE X-FORCE BLORKS! NOW THEY SHOW UP!
ALEX! COME IN! THIS IS GUIDO!
'LEX? TERRIFIC! LISTEN, YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHO JUST DROPPED IN!
POLICE
X-FORCE?! GUIDO, IF THIS IS A JOKE...
OH, BROTHER! I SEND RAHNE OUT TO DO SOME DEAD-END BUSY WORK, AND SHE LUCKS INTO X-FORCE!
IS CABLE WITH THEM, GUIDO?
IF HE IS THEN BISHOP AND I ARE...
YOU AND BISHOP STAY PUT, ORORO, NO MATTER WHAT. WE NEED PEOPLE ON STATION HERE IN CASE THERE'S ANOTHER ATTACK ON XAVIER. HE'LL NEED PROTECTION.
I HAVEN'T SPOTTED CABLE. DO WE ATTACK IF HE'S THERE?
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE DO YOU LET YOURSELF BE SEEN. THEY'RE DANGEROUS AND YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED. WE'LL GRAB A CAB OVER OR SOMETHING. GET IT?
GOT IT. WE'LL STAY OUT OF SI--
SAM!
ALEX? UH... CHANGE IN PLANS...

FERAL! LET HER PASS.
SOMEHOW AH HAD A FEELIN' IF WE RAN INTO ANYONE, IT'D BE HER.
I DON'T LIKE HER SMELL.
I DON'T LIKE YUIR FACE. NOW MOVE IT, SISTER.
SAM! I CANNA BELIEVE IT! HE... I THOUGHT YE WERE DEAD.
WELL, AH WAS...
...BUT AH GOT BETTER.
HEY, KIDDO... THE 'DO LOOKS GOOD ON YA.
TABITHA! IT'S LIKE A NEW MUTANTS REUNION!
I HEAR YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT ME ANYMORE.
WHA--?
RICTOR!! MFFFF...
MMMM

ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GETTING, KIDS, IS UP AGAINST THE SHIP! C'MON! SPREAD 'EM!
I'M A GOVERNMENT REP, AND YOU BOZOS ARE WANTED BIG-TIME!
HOW NICE. MUTANT-AS-GOVERNMENT-STOOGE. BETRAYING HIS OWN KIND.
HOW'D YA LIKE TO LEARN THE FINE ART OF SWORD-SWALLOWING, SONNY?
WAIT! WE DON'T HAVE T'ARGUE! SAM... THIS OUT-LAW LIFE OF YUIRS... IT'S NOT WHAT WE DREAMED OF IN OUR STUDENT DAYS. IT'S MADNESS!
TURN YUIRSELVES IN. TELL WHAT YE KNOW ABOUT CABLE.
CABLE'S ONE OF US, AND WE WATCH OUT FOR OUR OWN, NO MATTER HOW IT LOOKS. BUT TELL ME, RAHNE... WHAT IF AH SAID I'D HAVE X-FORCE SURRENDER...
YE OWE THAT KILLER NOTHIN'! YE'LL BE WELL-TREATED, I PROMISE YE.
... IF YOU AGREED TO LEAVE X-FACTOR...
... AND JOIN US INSTEAD, IF WE'RE KICKED LOOSE LATER?

I CANNA DO THAT.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS. I --
RIGHT, AH KNOW. ALEX.
WHAT ABOUT "ALEX?"
SHE'S HUNG UP ON HIM.
I HATE HIM ALREADY.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT! IT'S THAT... THAT I...
Y'DON'T TRUST US, IS WHAT IT IS. AN' TRUST HAS GOTTA WORK BOTH WAYS, RAHNE. OTHERWISE IT'S NOTHIN'!
WHERE 'YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN', FELIXA?
AWAY. I'M NOT PICKING UP CABLE'S SCENT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, CANNON-BALL.

IF YA'D ASKED US ABOUT CABLE'S SCENT, WE COULD'VE TOLD'JA THAT.
YOU HAVE MADE YOUR LAST MISTAKE!
WON'T BE THE FIRST TIME!
HEY! WATCH WITH THE CLAWS!
AND IF YA'D ASKED ABOUT LEAVIN', WE COULD'VE ANSWERED THAT, TOO.
OWWW!
YOU HAVE FAR GREATER CAUSE FOR CONCERN THAN FERAL'S CLAWS, MUTANT TRAITOR!
ARRHH!
GUIDO!
NICE... SLICE, KID!
TAKES A HECK OF A LOT TO HURT ME. MOST THINGS ON THIS PLANET CAN'T DO IT.
YOU LOOK A LOT LESS STURDY THAN ME, THOUGH.
LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING. ALTHOUGH SINCE YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL, YOU WOULD BE AN EXCEPTION.

GET OUT OF MUH WAY!
MAKE ME
FERAL, DON'T HURT HER! DON'T--
AARRGH!
JEEZ! YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT FERAL HURTING RAHNE?!
•OOOFF!
YOU'RE QUICK, KID. I'LL GIVE YA THAT...
AND I REGRET, MASSIVE ONE, THAT I MUST GIVE YOU...
THIS!
AKGHH!
ARR...
HUH!
MY... MY SWORD?! WHAT HAPPENED TO--

LOOKING FOR THIS?
HOW...
...DARE...
...YOU?!
Hmm. STRONG GUY IS RIGHT. YOU ARE QUITE FAST.
BUT LET'S SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST SOMEONE FOR WHOM SPEED IS NOT MERELY AN ATTRIBUTE...
...BUT A LIFESTYLE.
HAVE YE HAD ENOUGH? OR DO I...
AKKK!
GWARRR
HOLY CROW! RAHNE'S GONNA KILL 'ER! I GOTTA--
FWZAAM

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

I've been excitedly waiting, month after month, to make this awesome announcement! And now, at last, the time has come! So fasten your seat belts, compadres, while I lay the skinny on ya!

The most exhilaratingly excellent, exotically exciting and exorbitantly extravagant X-MEN ANIMATED TV SERIES is finally ready to hit the tube! The first thirteen thrill-a-minute episodes, featuring everybody's favorite multi-powered mob of mutants, in all their award-winning glory, will soon be on their way to you!

But even though we at mighty Marvel have done most of the heavy work, there's still something you've gotta do! It's up to you to check the TV listings of the friendly Fox Network to see the exact time and day you can catch the newest and greatest action spectacular since Wolverine forgot to retract his claws when scratching an itch!

Speaking of Wolvie, you're probably wondering which of our militant menage of marvelous muties will be featured in the all-new, all-animated X-MEN series! Well, wonder no more, believers!

For starters, you'll be seeing some of your old favorites fighting side-by-side with, for, and against some of our wildest newies! Naturally, we wouldn't dream of doing an animated X-MEN series without the startling savagery of Wolverine! Nor would we dare to omit the stunningly sensational Storm! (Or, should it be the sensationally stunning Storm? It's not easy writing this stuff when you know the most critical readers in comicdom are sagaciously scrutinizing every wondrous word!) Anyway, here's a partial list of some other mutant merrymakers who'll dazzle your eyes and stagger your senses: Cyclops! Rogue! Jubilee! Gambit! Professor X! Jean Grey! Cable! — and that's just for starters! You'll also thrill to the delicious deviltry of Magneto, Sabretooth, Mystique, The Sentinels, Apocalypse, and many more too numerous to — no, that's not it! I just can't spell the others!

Very often, when a literary property is transferred to tv, it's changed so much that you can hardly recognize it. Well, not this time! The X-MEN you're gonna see on the Fox Network is the same X-Men you can't get enough of in our mags! Same characters! Same type of stories! Same action and drama! It's our merry mutants as you've always wanted to see them!

Well, I'll close now before you let your emotions get the better of you! But in case I didn't make myself clear— it's the X-MEN! It's animated! It's on Fox TV! Check it out!

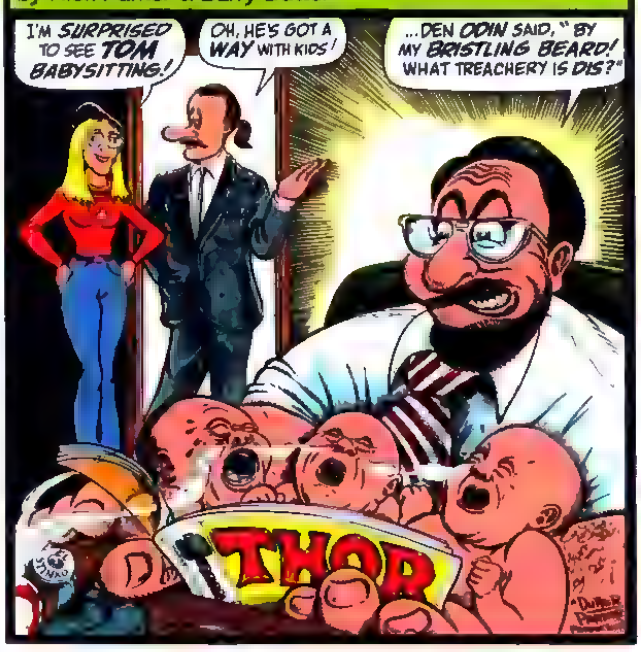
Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee
(Mr. Low-key)

THE BULL'S EYE

by Rick Parker & Barry Dutter



September is a time for rebirth and renewal ... a time for a new season of *Herman's Head* to start up ... a time for a return to the thrill of learning in school, after suffering through an endless, boring summer. It's autumn now ... a time for brown things to fall from trees, only to be raked into piles and set on fire (no, we're not talking about squirrels!).

September is not only a time for rebirth, but one for birth, as well, as this month, through the magic of lead time, we celebrate the June arrivals of a couple of new leaves on the Marvel family tree. **Chuck** (PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL) **Dixon** and his sharpshootin' wife **Elma** are the proud parents of a little son of a gun named **Cullen Thane**. The boy weighed in at well over nine pounds, and already has reportedly started spending time at the shooting range.

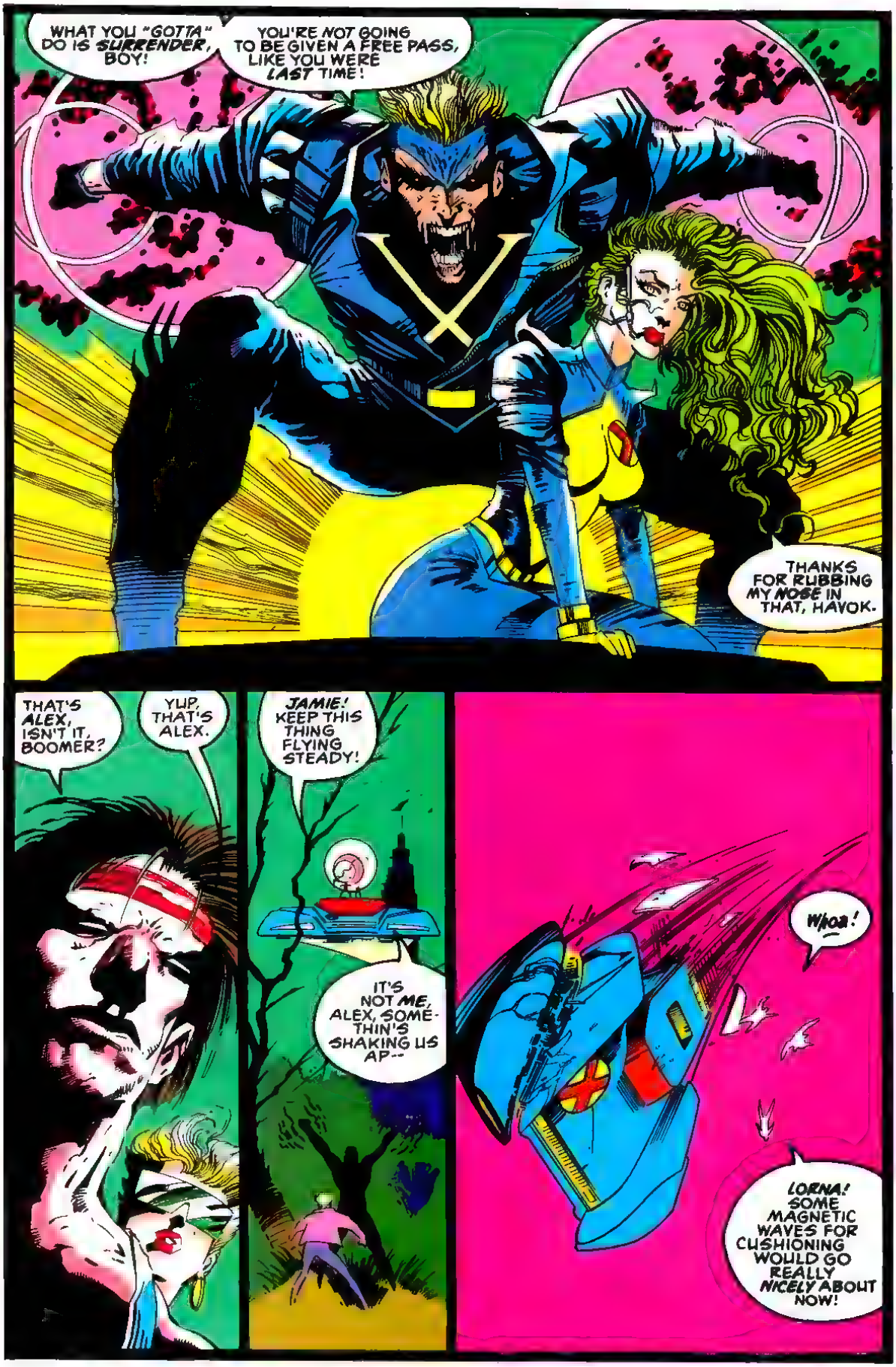
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN inker **Keith Williams** and his wife **Marjet** have also expanded their family web with the addition of a swinging baby girl named **Victoria Hope**, weighing in at six pounds. Keith reports no spiders — radioactive or otherwise — were present at the birth.

The past few months have seen the birth of a nationwide resurgence of interest in comics by the outside world; in fact, recently a bunch of Marveloids were left hanging — in a gallery, that is! On June 18-July 18, the Maryland Art Place in Baltimore sponsored a Show of Sequential Art featuring local comics artists, some of whom happened to be Marveloids. Exhibiting their work in the show were **Greg** (DEATHLOK) **Wright** (who was born with a Silver Sable in his mouth), **Jae** (NAMOR) **Lee**, **Ron** (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING) **Wilson**, and **Bernie** (PUNISHER:POV) **Wrightson**. All the work in the show was for sale, offering the general public a rare opportunity to view original comic art, and actually purchase a piece for their own collections to hang on their refrigerators with magnets.

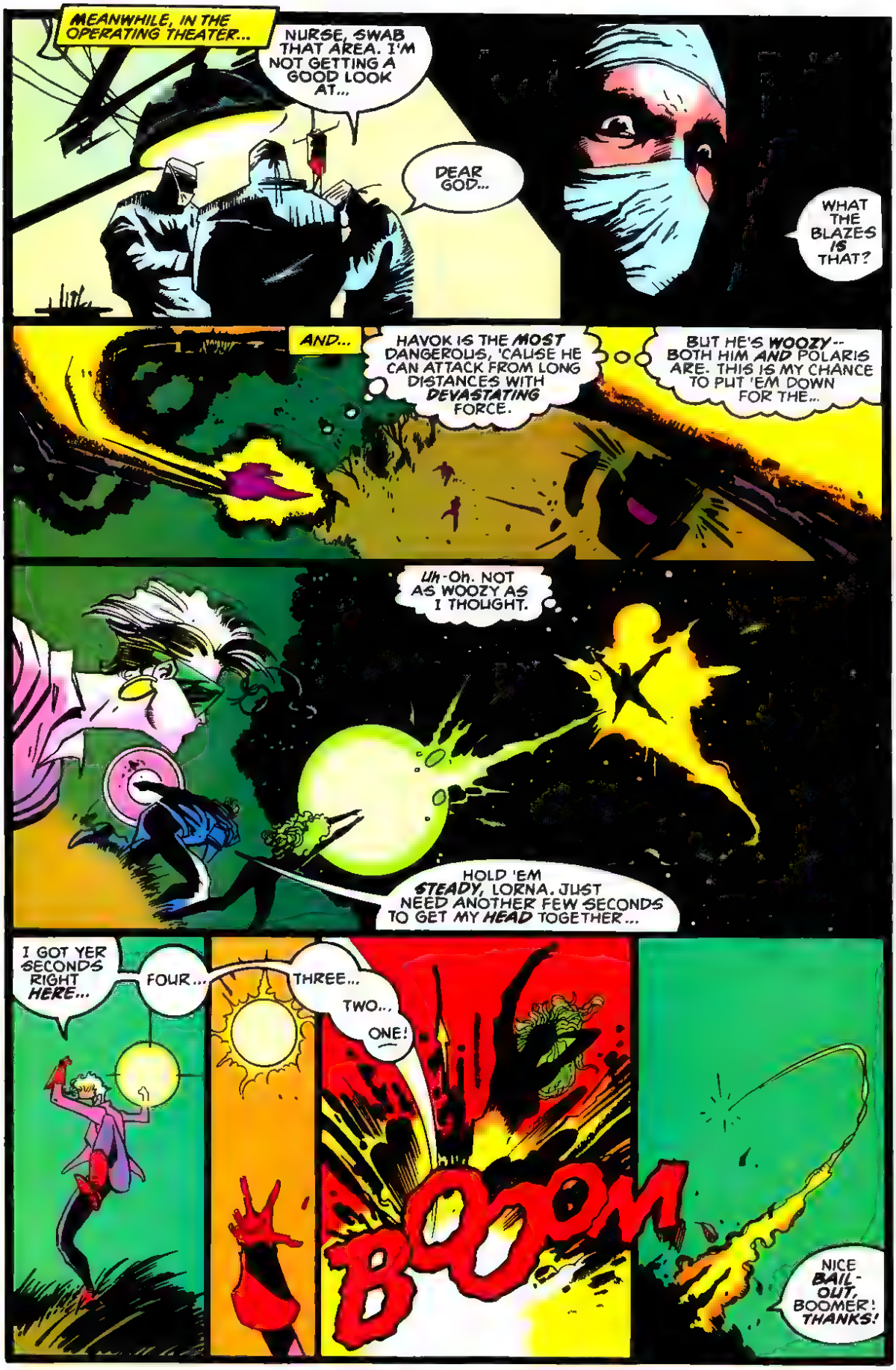
Also doing the gallery thing this summer was BARBIE-writer **Barbara Slate**, who hails from modern Baby-lon. From August 1-18, Barbara had an exhibit of some of her YUPPIES FROM HELL art featured at the Elaine Benson Gallery in Bridgehampton, NY. Barbara created several new pieces for the show — all YUPPIE-inspired — including large panels, a painting, and a 3-D collage. Barbara described the new pieces as "taking my comic book art to another dimension!" Yet another example of how comics are becoming more legit all the time. We've come a long way, baby!

Also coming a long way were West Coasters **Mark Evanier** and **Ernie Chan** — neither of whom was born yesterday, ya know. Mark is one of the new writers of the new Bob Newhart television series, entitled "Bob," in which everyone's favorite psychiatrist/inn-keeper portrays a comic book writer! Mark was also in town to discuss the plans for GROO #100. Inker supreme Ernie, who works on Groo's spiritual twin, Conan the Barbarian over in the pages of SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, also stopped in for a couple weeks. Ernie came mostly to try to get as many free lunches as he could, but also wound up doing a couple of nifty Hulk pin-ups, as well!

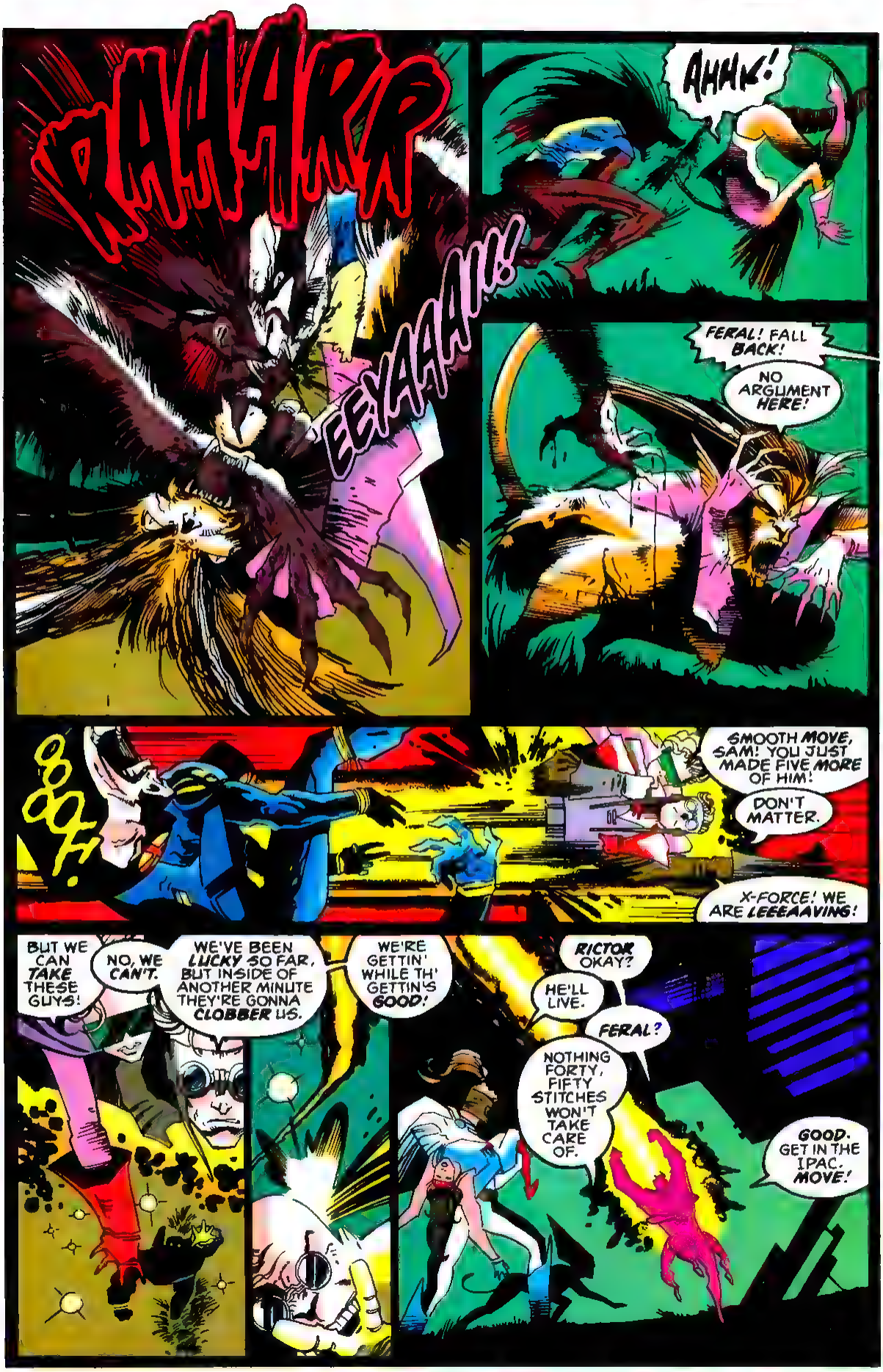
Well, we could run on and on about this, but that would be like throwing out the Bullpen with the bathwater! So we'll leave you with these words: Remember, there's a Marveloid born every minute!


WHAT YOU "GOTTA" DO IS SURRENDER, BOY!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE GIVEN A FREE PASS, LIKE YOU WERE LAST TIME!
THANKS FOR RUBBING MY NOSE IN THAT, HAVOK.
THAT'S ALEX, ISN'T IT, BOOMER?
YUP, THAT'S ALEX.
JAMIE! KEEP THIS THING FLYING STEADY!
IT'S NOT ME, ALEX, SOMETHIN'S SHAKING US AP--
Whoa!
LORNA! SOME MAGNETIC WAVES FOR CUSHIONING WOULD GO REALLY NICELY ABOUT NOW!

WOW. YOU REALLY SHOWED THEM.
YEAH, YOU SAID I--
Ohhh NO YOU DON'T!!
Ohhh YES I DO!
I'M THE WRONG ONE TO HIT WITH VIBRO WAVES, SONNY... LEASTWAYS IF YOU DON'T WANT 'EM RIGHT BACK AT YA!
OOOFF!
COWARD! YOU DODGE AROUND BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID TO FACE ME!
NOT AT ALL. I DODGE AROUND TO MAKE YOU FEEL AS STUPID AS YOU LOOK.
I WAS RIGHT. YOU ARE WITHOUT HONOR.
YOU OBNOXIOUS PUNK!
THE WORST THING YOU COULD DO IS MERIT MY FULL ATTENTION!
MY ENTIRE LIFE CONSISTS OF FINDING WAYS TO EASE THE BOREDOM, WHICH YOU'RE PRESENTLY DOING.
BUT YOU'RE COMING DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO CROSSING THE LINE INTO THE REALM OF BEING AN ANNOYANCE.

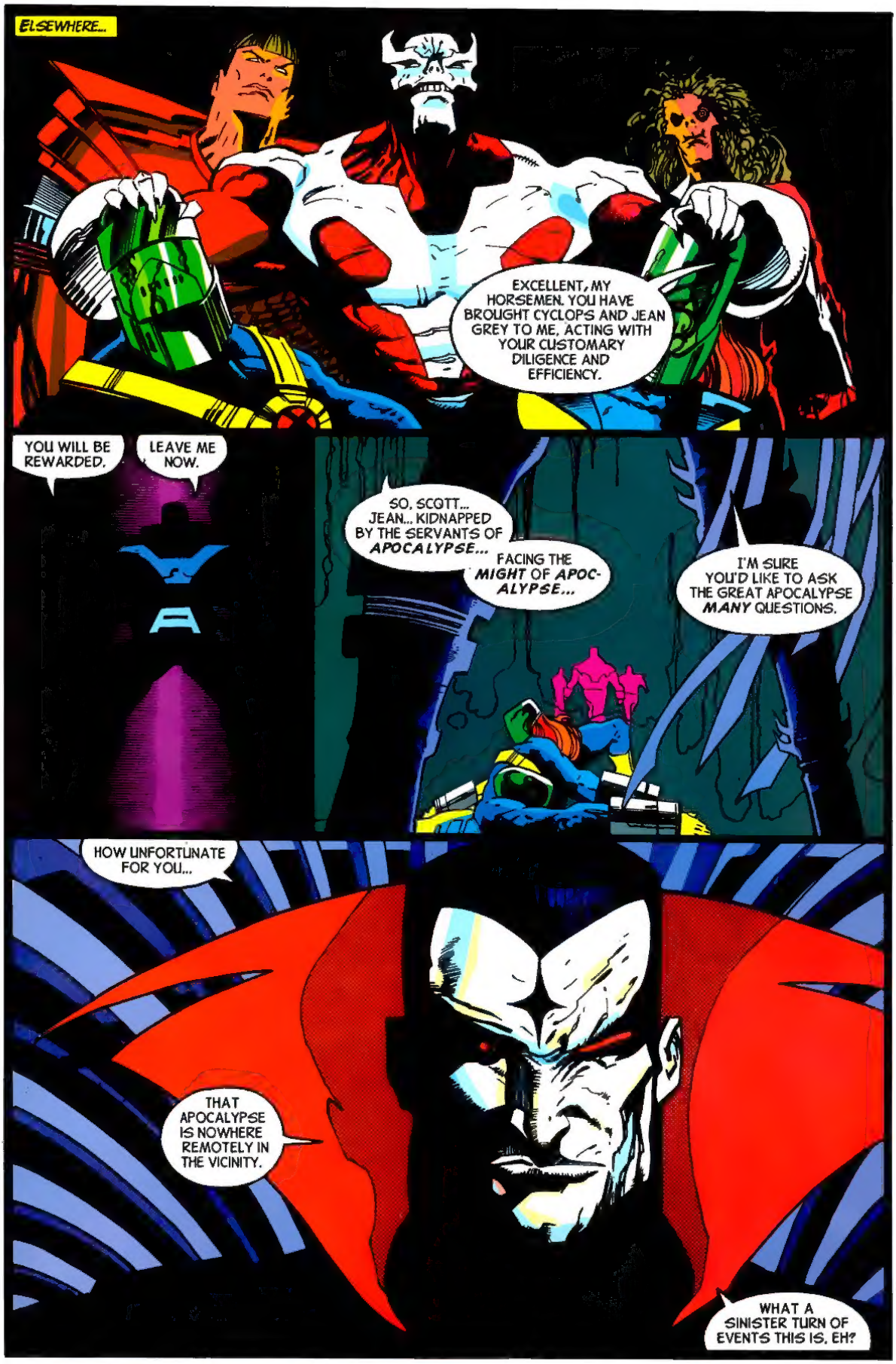

MEANWHILE, IN THE OPERATING THEATER...
NURSE, SWAB THAT AREA. I'M NOT GETTING A GOOD LOOK AT...
DEAR GOD...
WHAT THE BLAZES IS THAT?
AND...
HAVOK IS THE MOST DANGEROUS, 'CAUSE HE CAN ATTACK FROM LONG DISTANCES WITH DEVASTATING FORCE.
BUT HE'S WOOZY-- BOTH HIM AND POLARIS ARE. THIS IS MY CHANCE TO PUT 'EM DOWN FOR THE...
Uh-Oh. NOT AS WOOZY AS I THOUGHT.
HOLD 'EM STEADY, LORNA. JUST NEED ANOTHER FEW SECONDS TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER...
I GOT YER SECONDS RIGHT HERE...
FOUR...
THREE...
TWO...
ONE!
BOOOM
NICE BAIL-OUT, BOOMER! THANKS!

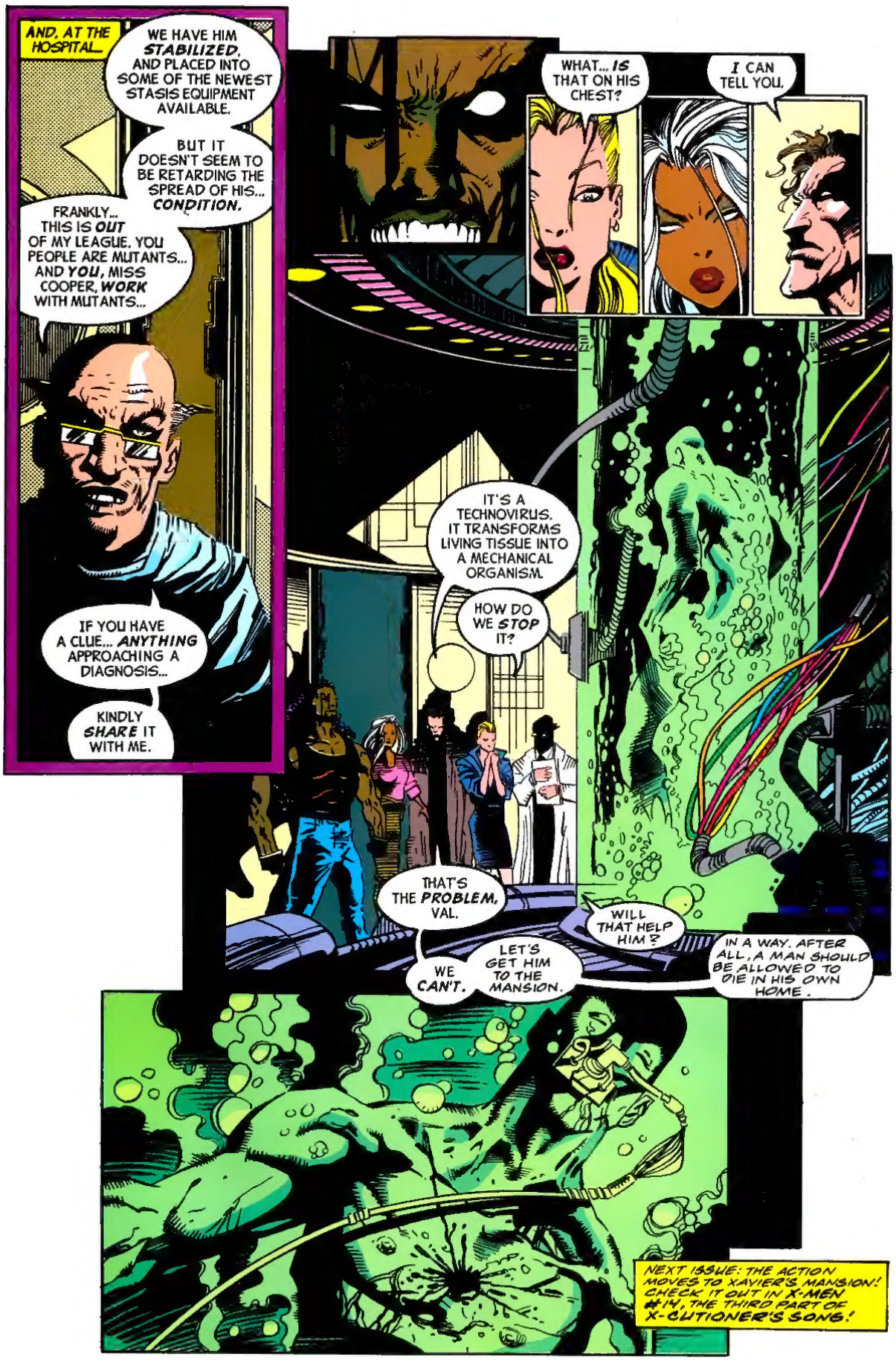
YEAH, REAL NICE, BOOM BOOM. ATTACKING FROM BEHIND.
CABLE TAUGHT YOU SOME OF THE BEST TRICKS OF THE TRADE, Huh?
AW, SUCK A TIME BOMB, YOU X-FACTOR LOW LI--
BOOM
MADROX? YOU?! AW NUTS!
THAT'S RIGHT
BOOM BOOM
YOU JUST MADE
MORE TROUBLE FOR YOURSELF.
THIS WHOLE THING'S GOING STRAIGHT DOWN THE OUTHOUSE CHUTE.
GOTTA WRAP IT.
FAST!
MY MUSCLES ARE STARTING TO ACHE FROM MOVING THIS SLOWLY...
...TIME TO END THIS.
FIRST, I'LL GIVE YOU A RICHLY-DESERVED HAIRCUT. THEN--
UNNNHH!
CANNONBALL! BLAST YOU! HE WAS MY OPPONENT!


RAHARP
EEYAAAAK!
AHHK!
FERAL! FALL BACK!
NO ARGUMENT HERE!
SMOOTH MOVE, SAM! YOU JUST MADE FIVE MORE OF HIM!
DON'T MATTER.
X-FORCE! WE ARE LEEEAAVING!
BUT WE CAN TAKE THESE GUYS!
NO, WE CAN'T.
WE'VE BEEN LUCKY SO FAR, BUT INSIDE OF ANOTHER MINUTE THEY'RE GONNA CLOBBER US.
WE'RE GETTIN' WHILE TH' GETTIN'S GOOD!
RICTOR OKAY?
HE'LL LIVE.
FERAL?
NOTHING FORTY, FIFTY STITCHES WON'T TAKE CARE OF.
GOOD. GET IN THE IPAC. MOVE!

OHHH NO! YOU'RE NOT JUST WALTZING IN HERE AND WALTZING BACK OUT...
... NOT SO LONG AS I'M HERE TO CRY--
HAVOK!
WHERE IS HE?
GONE. MY PLAN WORKED PERFECTLY. WITH THE TRAIL THEY'LL BE LEAVING, THEY'LL LEAD US STRAIGHT BACK TO THEIR HIDEOUT...
... AND, WITH ANY LUCK, THEIR MURDEROUS LEADER.
ARE YOU OKAY, SWEET-HEART?
I'M FINE, HONEYBUNCH. WHY DON'TCHA CHECK ON LORNA, THOUGH?
RAHNE? EVERYTHING SQUARE WITH YOU?
AYE. I SHOWED THAT TWO-BIT COPYCAT WHAT-FER, DIDN'T I?
Y'SURE DID.
YOUR "PLAN," ALEX? NOW YOU'RE SAYING YOU INTENDED TO LET THEM GO?
WELL, IT WAS MY BACK-UP PLAN, OKAY?
AND A FINE BACK-UP PLAN IT WAS, 'LEX.
Eh?

MIND IF WE COME ALONG TO BACKUP YOUR BACK-UP PLAN?
ME, PSYLOCKE, GAMBIT, ROGUE, AND BEAST...
WE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF EXPERIENCE IN THESE KINDS OF SCRAPS.
OUT-STANDING, LOGAN! YOU'RE HERE TO HELP BRING IN X-FORCE?
MOST ASSUREDLY, ALEX.
BECAUSE YOUR HYPOTHESIS WOULD SEEM TO HAVE MERIT. IF WE NAIL X-FORCE... THEN WE GET...
CABLE.
OH, GOOD! INCLUDING HBO? AND MAYBE THE DISNEY CHANNEL FOR RAHNE...
QUIET YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME.
WE'RE HEADING BACK TO THE HOSPITAL TO SEE WHAT THE STATUS IS WITH CHARLIE.
BUT THE WAY PEOPLE WERE FLYING IN AND OUT OF THE OPERATION ROOM...
...IT DON'T LOOK SO HOT.
TERRIFIC. I DON'T SEE HOW THINGS COULD GET WORSE.
WHERE'S SCOTTY?
YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THAT...


ELSEWHERE...
EXCELLENT, MY HORSEMEN. YOU HAVE BROUGHT CYCLOPS AND JEAN GREY TO ME, ACTING WITH YOUR CUSTOMARY DILIGENCE AND EFFICIENCY.
YOU WILL BE REWARDED.
LEAVE ME NOW.
SO, SCOTT... JEAN... KIDNAPPED BY THE SERVANTS OF *APOCALYPSE*...
FACING THE *MIGHT* OF *APOCALYPSE*...
I'M SURE YOU'D LIKE TO ASK THE GREAT APOCALYPSE *MANY* QUESTIONS.
HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU...
THAT APOCALYPSE IS NOWHERE REMOTELY IN THE VICINITY.
WHAT A SINISTER TURN OF EVENTS THIS IS, EH?


AND, AT THE HOSPITAL...
WE HAVE HIM STABILIZED, AND PLACED INTO SOME OF THE NEWEST STASIS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE.
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE RETARDING THE SPREAD OF HIS... CONDITION.
FRANKLY... THIS IS OUT OF MY LEAGUE. YOU PEOPLE ARE MUTANTS... AND YOU, MISS COOPER, WORK WITH MUTANTS...
IF YOU HAVE A CLUE... ANYTHING APPROACHING A DIAGNOSIS...
KINDLY SHARE IT WITH ME.
WHAT... IS THAT ON HIS CHEST?
I CAN TELL YOU.
IT'S A TECHNOVIRUS. IT TRANSFORMS LIVING TISSUE INTO A MECHANICAL ORGANISM.
HOW DO WE STOP IT?
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, VAL.
WE CAN'T.
LET'S GET HIM TO THE MANSION.
WILL THAT HELP HIM?
IN A WAY. AFTER ALL, A MAN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DIE IN HIS OWN HOME.
NEXT ISSUE: THE ACTION MOVES TO XAVIER'S MANSION! CHECK IT OUT IN X-MEN #14, THE THIRD PART OF X-CUTIONER'S SONS!